

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-27 and 29-46 are pending in this application. The title has been changed to more closely correlate to the claimed invention. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-27 and 29-32 have been amended to incorporate subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner and to eliminate the number "N" from the claims to overcome the Examiner's objections. Claims 5, 12, 19 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 33-46 have been newly added to further point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Each of new claims 33-46 includes subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the Amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-22, 24, 26 and 28-31 have been objected to because the number N does not have a clearly defined range. The claims have been amended to recite "a plurality of" rather than "N".

The withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-22, 24, 26 and 28-31 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, 23, 26-29 and 32 include subject matter allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features similar to those recited in canceled claim 5, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 are dependent upon claim 1 and thus are also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate features similar to those recited in canceled claim 12, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 8 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 9-11, 13 and 14 are dependent upon claim 8 and thus are also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate features similar to those recited in canceled claim 19, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 15 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 16-18, 20 and 21 are dependent upon claim 15 and thus are also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate features similar to those recited in canceled claims 5, 12, 19 and 28, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 22 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 23 is dependent upon claim 22 and thus is also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate features similar to those recited in canceled claim 28, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 24 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 25-27, 29 and 30 are dependent upon claim 24 and thus are also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 31 has been amended to incorporate features similar to those recited in canceled claims 5, 12, 19 and 28, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 31 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 32 is dependent upon claim 31 and thus is also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

New claims 33, 36, 39 and 43 incorporate features similar to those recited in claims 3, 10, 17 and 26, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 33, 36, 39 and 43 are allowable over the prior art of record.

New claims 34, 37, 40, 42, 45 and 46 incorporate features similar to those recited in claims 4, 11, 18, 23, 27 and 32, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 34, 37, 40, 42, 45 and 46 are allowable over the prior art of record.

New claims 35, 38, 41 and 44 incorporate features similar to those recited in claims 6, 13, 20 and 29, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 35, 38, 41 and 44 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant: Supplee et al.
Application No.: 10/725,808

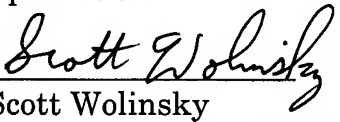
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-27 and 29-46 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-27 and 29-46 are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner does not believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 215-568-6400.

Respectfully submitted,

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